

EIGHTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
PARISH ASSOCIATION
OF THE
CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES
PHILADELPHIA.

AS READ AT THE ANNIVERSARY, SUNDAY EVE'NG, JAN. 29, 1882.

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Report.

Philadelphia, January 29th, 1882.

TO THE CONGREGATION
OF THE
CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES.

The Committee appointed for the purpose, herewith presents the Eighth Annual Report of the Parish Association, comprising as complete an account of the work of the year as it is possible to give.

The Rector reports that the services of the Church have been held regularly twice every Sunday during the entire year; extra services were held during Lent, and the usual Wednesday evening lecture is continued, being united with the teachers' meeting in the months of July, August and September. There have also been the customary services on Holy Days and Thanksgiving Day, as in former years, and also on the day set apart by the Governor of the Commonwealth for prayer in behalf of the recovery of President Garfield, and in special funeral services as set forth by the Bishop on the day of the obsequies of our late lamented Chief Magistrate in Cleveland.

The attendance at our services and weekly meetings, while it is exceedingly gratifying, and pronounced by those of other parishes who have been with us, as comparing very favorably with their own, yet the Rector, to quote from a former Report, "is compelled to deplore the absence of many who should enter the courts of the Lord; there are those who have been baptized and confirmed in the Episcopal Church, whose children are enrolled in the Sunday School, who consider themselves as connected with the Parish, receiving the visits of the Minister, and his consolation and assistance at the time of trouble, who yet are never seen in the Sanctuary, it is his earnest

wish that all who are regular in their attendance, and the members of the Association should coöperate with him, in inducing such persons to come to Church."

There have been during 1881:

Infant Baptisms,	41
Adult "	1
Confirmed,	14
Funerals attended,	29
Marriages solemnized,	2
Present number of Communicants, about	460

The Holy Communion is administered every Second Sunday in the month, and Infant Baptism on the Fourth Sunday.

Since the Parish has been in existence, the summary of the statistics is as follows:

Baptisms, Infants, 688. Adults, 49,	737
Confirmed, thirteen occasions,	401
Funerals,	376
Marriages,	133

With the full consent of the Vestry, and followed by the prayers and best wishes of the Congregation, the Rector and his wife sailed on the 4th of May for a six months absence in Europe. By the unanimous choice of the Vestry, Rev. E. H. Supplee assumed the charge of the Parish during the Rector's sojourn abroad, and labored earnestly, faithfully and acceptably. All the services were kept up, during a summer of unparalleled excitement and intense heat, and his visits of mercy to the sick, dying and bereaved, were full of consolation and sympathy.

On the Tuesday evening before the departure of the Rector, a farewell service was held in the Church, which was very largely attended. Addresses were delivered by Rev. Dr. Appleton, Rev. Mr. Supplee, and the Rector, after which the members of the Congregation personally wished him God-speed.

On his return a social reception was tendered in the Sunday School room. The members of the choir furnished choice music, and addresses were delivered by Rev. Dr. Appleton, Rev. Mr. Bugbee, Rev. R. N. Thomas, and the Rector.

The Accounting Warden presents the following statement of his accounts, which are herewith submitted:

DR. BY RECEIPTS. 1881.

January 1st, Balance on hand,	\$ 18.78
Received from Pew Rents,	2,061.69
" Collections,	586.00
" Subscriptions, outside the Parish,	83.00
" " within " "	498.53
" Sunday Schools,	421.39
" Excursion,	37.20
Sundry Items,	19.53
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	\$3,726.12

CR. BY PAYMENTS.

Rector, and Supply during his absence,	\$2,083.33
Sexton,	400.00
Ground Rent,	500.00
Music, including Instruction of the Choir,	
Organ Tuning, &c.,	372.69
Alteration and Repairs,	161.83
Gas,	220.00
Insurance,	60.00
Episcopal Hospital,	44.25
Convention Fund,	50.00
Sundries,	133.73
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	4,025.83
Deficit, January 1, 1882,	\$299.71

Since the first of January, by the efforts of the Vestry, aided by friends outside the Parish, and seconded by many liberal persons in the Congregation, this deficit has not only been wiped out, but the payments due January 1st have all been met. This is, in part, owing to the fact that subscriptions have been obtained covering the entire amount of the ground rent for a period of three years from January 1st. Twelve persons have thus pledged \$500 per annum for this purpose.

As in the latter part of 1880, the Vestry appealed to the members of the Congregation for special subscriptions; this was responded to by fifty-three persons, who contributed \$313.50, but of this sum \$100 was donated by two members of the Vestry for the erection of a new and substantial fence at the rear of the Church building, in place of the old one blown down. This will appear in the next report. This new fence was kindly painted, without cost to us, by the courtesy of a former member.

With the help afforded by the assumption of the yearly ground rent, the Congregation should unquestionably provide the balance needed to meet our ordinary expenses. This can easily be done if those who attend the Church, and can afford to do so, would rent sittings or pews. The present pew rental of the Church is about \$2,200 per annum; with very little effort this can be increased \$500. A sitting can be obtained for the small sum of \$1 a year, or two cents a Sunday, and the highest priced one in the Church is but \$12. For ten cents a Sunday a sitting in a most eligible part of the Church may be obtained. There are many who constantly attend the services who have probably never had this subject thus brought to their attention. It is very unpleasant for the Warden and Vestry to have to appeal so constantly outside, and also to ask, as we are obliged to do, the few who are always contributing within the Parish, and it is therefore hoped that this plain statement of the facts of the case will lead to a different state of things in the future.

As the matter now stands, our annual expenses are	
about,	\$4,000
We have available—	
Pew Rents, say	\$2,200
Sunday Collections, say,	600
Subscriptions,	100
Ground Rent Pledges,	500
From the Sunday School,	300
	———— 3,700

So that we really only need some \$300 to place us free from deficiency. An increase in the pew rental should do this without much effort. In this connection it is probably worth suggesting that those who can afford it might quietly rent a pew or sitting, in addition to their own, for the occupancy of some person not able themselves to do so.

The condition of the carpets also reminds us that their replenishing is only a question of time; they have been down now for more than eleven years. If a strong, united effort is made, the Congregation can not only provide for the expenses, but for this renewal besides.

It is with pleasure we turn from these details to the effective work of the Association, which is confided to the following Committees:

First—Sunday Schools and Bible Classes.

Number on the Roll, Officers and Teachers,	68
Scholars,	896
	———— 964

The average attendance during the entire year has been:

Officers and Teachers,	56
Scholars,	647
	———— 703
The largest attendance was Easter Sunday, April 17,	876
The smallest attendance was Sunday, August 21,	360
Exclusive of July and August, the average attendance of Teachers and Scholars was	750

The average above stated shows a falling off from that of the previous year of six; all of which is entirely accounted for by the holding of a summer morning session during July and August. This was deemed to be both a wise and expedient move, as the instruction could be imparted better in the cooler hours of the morning, and, besides, more of the scholars would be likely to attend the Church service. The result proved the decision to be a proper one, and, although the attendance was less, the benefit was greater.

The Uniform Scheme of Diocesan Lessons is still taught in all the classes, and both teachers and scholars evince deep interest in its study. The Standard of the Cross Lesson Helps are still used, and copies of the paper are furnished each week to every teacher, not only giving full notes on the Lessons, but information with reference to Church work both here and in England. In this connection it is gratifying to state that these Lessons are being yearly used by a larger number of schools, and in our own city they are taught in about sixty schools. The present series is on New Testament Biography.

In our last Report it was mentioned that the influence of the school outside in the Diocese had been undoubtedly increased by the adoption of these Lessons. This may be seen by stating the fact, that full and admirable notes on each week's Lessons are furnished to and published in the "Standard of the Cross," which are written by one of the Bible Class Teachers of our school. The interest of the school, and its representation in the Sunday School Association of the Church, has unquestionably aided that body in its work of improving and assisting this scheme of Lessons. The daily Bible Readings, which are now prepared by the Association and published upon all the leaflets, had their origin in this school.

The Sunday School Association held its annual meeting this year in our Church, when the sermon was preached by the Rev. G. H. Kinsolving, Rector of the Church of the Epiphany in this city.

The weekly teachers' meetings are continued, and during the summer were combined with the Wednesday evening service. They are held on Friday evenings, and are attended, as in previous years, by older scholars who may have the desire to become teachers, and the instruction is aimed to be of such a character as to educate them

for this purpose. The large number of these graduates now teaching in our school is the best evidence to the practical work of this meeting.

The average attendance at this meeting has been : 33 Teachers, and 10 others.

The usual Christmas services were held upon the evening of that day by the Main School and Bible Classes, and upon the Tuesday afternoon of Christmas week by the Infant School.

The Easter anniversary exercises were conducted upon the evening of that day, when the design was a rock with open door, indicative of the Sepulchre on the Resurrection Morn.

The Christmas festival was held on Tuesday evening, December 27th, when a delightful entertainment was furnished by a number of members of our own school, assisted by their friends. All present heartily enjoyed the occasion. The Infant School was supplied with gifts in the afternoon ; but on neither occasion was there any candy, the scholars themselves, several years ago, decided against this.

The same plan was followed this year, as last, in bringing to the school building, on the afternoon before Christmas, of donations of provisions, poultry, groceries, &c., for distribution among those not so highly favored. One hundred and twenty-six different articles and packages were thus brought.

Through the liberality of one of the members of the Vestry, and his friends, the Lecture and Bible Class Rooms have been frescoed and painted, adding very much to the attractiveness of their appearance. Another member had the Infant School Room also decorated and with appropriate texts upon the walls. The great improvement which this work has been seen to have caused had led the Sunday School to undertake the work of decorating the large main room. This will be commenced immediately.

To increase the offerings of the scholars, it has been deemed best to systematize them, and, after due deliberation, it was decided to set apart a special object for each Sunday of the month, thus :

First Sunday—For the poor of the Sunday School.

Second Sunday—For the expenses of the Church.

Third Sunday—For the expenses of the School.

Fourth Sunday—For missionary and charitable purposes.

The offerings already show an increase, and it is believed this plan will work to advantage.

The Library now numbers about 700 volumes, and its privileges are gladly availed of by the scholars. Teachers' Reference Library, 200 volumes.

The Treasurer of the School reports :

Balance on hand from 1881,	\$ 189.04
Total amount of Contributions and Collections, 1881,	1,421.38
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	\$1,610.42

EXPENDED.

Support of the Church,	\$527.99
Support of the Sunday School, including Books, Leaflets, &c.,	421.13
Anniversary and Christmas expenses,	70.50
Missionary purposes :	
Bishop Whipple,	50.00
" Penick,	50.00
" Vail,	50.00
" Whittaker,	50.00
Mexican work,	50.00
St. James' Church Parish School,	25.00
Hospital Good Shepherd, Radnor,	25.00
" P. E. Church,	32.84
Philadelphia Tract and Mission Society,	15.00
P. E. Sunday School Association,	10.00
30th Ward Relief Association,	25.00
Society for the Protection of Children from Cruelty,	34.81
Sunday School in Laramie,	5.00
" " " Louisville,	5.00
Sufferers by Michigan fire,	46.80
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	\$1,494.07
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	\$116.35

The Warden's Report is to January 1st ; the Treasurer of the School reports to the annual meeting—hence the differences in the two reports as to the amount given to the Church by the School.

The Treasurer has prepared carefully arranged rolls, with pocket attached, for the collections, which are used by the classes and returned to him every Sunday, with attendance noted, &c. These have proved to be exceedingly satisfactory, and we have had the pleasure of assisting other schools in the way of sample copies.

A number of clergymen and laymen have been present at our sessions, from time to time, as visitors, and letters are received every year from Missionary Bishops and others in grateful acknowledgment of the help given by the School. It is also very gratifying to the Superintendent to hear, as he does, from teachers and scholars who have removed to distant parts of our country and are there engaged in Christian work. In one such instance a lady teacher has

been called to superintend a school in one of our newest Western towns, and in the short space of six months increased the attendance threefold.

One of our recent visitors was a Secretary of the Church of England S. S. Institute.

Visitors are always welcome to the School, but none more so than the parents of the scholars.

Rev. Dr. Newton preached to the entire schools on Sunday, January 22d, when the service was rendered very heartily by the scholars.

During the summer, the sad and mysterious experiences through which our country passed in the assassination and subsequent terrible suffering of President Garfield, there were appropriate services on several occasions, concluding with a Memorial one on Sunday, September 25th.

A welcome was also extended to the Rector on his return home, when scholars representing the various departments made addresses to him, and while he was absent the following prayer, which was printed and distributed, was used at every school session and in the private devotions of a large number:

"O Eternal and Everlasting God, we would devoutly implore Thy blessing and protection upon Thy servants, our beloved Rector, and his wife. Guard them, we beseech Thee, from all dangers by sea and land; from sickness, and from every evil to which they may be exposed. Conduct them in safety through all their travels, and in Thy good time grant that they may return to us again in renewed health and strength, with a grateful sense of all Thy mercies, and with increased zeal and love for Thy work.

"We ask all through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN."

Second Committee.—Parish Library.

The Chairman of this Committee deplors the fact that so few of the books are used. This Library contains about 900 volumes; but one of the cases has been removed to the larger Bible Class Room and is availed of at the Tuesday evening social gatherings.

A Committee of the Association, with the Chairman of this Committee at its head, is now considering the feasibility of combining all the libraries in the building under one head and in one room; this is, of necessity, a matter requiring careful consideration.

The plan adopted by many Parish Libraries of availing largely of the cheap publication of standard literature may be worth a trial in our Library; at any rate, the bringing of such works within the reach of all has been one cause why our Library is not better patronized. At the same time it is a cause for encouragement that so powerful an antidote has been found to baneful and pernicious books.

Third Committee.—Church Hospitality.

As has been stated before in these reports, it is impossible for this Committee to give any statistical account of their work, their duty being to attend before and after the stated services on Sundays and during the week, to extend a welcome to strangers who may be present and furnish them with seats. They also have been the means of introducing quite a number of persons to the Rector, and of bringing others into the Sunday School, besides aiding to increase the revenues of the Church by the renting of pews and sittings.

Fourth Committee.—District Visiting.

The members of this Committee have paid about 200 visits, and have also visited and relieved a number of cases of distress, and received a number of donations of garments, &c.; they have been instrumental in bringing into the Sunday School and Church those who had no other religious connection, and others recently coming into the neighborhood.

This Committee again expresses its appreciation of the Ward Association for the Relief of the Poor with which it has coöperated, and received valuable advice and assistance in preventing many cases of imposture from obtaining relief, and judiciously dispensing assistance to the needy, they believe that if these Ward Relief Organizations were properly understood by the Churches they would be found to be valuable auxiliaries in their work among the destitute and neglected.

The Sick Diet Kitchen, established by the Episcopal City Mission, has also been a great help to this Committee, and grateful acknowledgment is expressed for its aid.

Fifth Committee.—On Music.

This Committee is composed of those who voluntarily occupy the positions of Choir in the Church. There are at present 37 members, divided as follows:

Soprano voices,	16
Alto	8
Tenor	4
Bass	7
Leader and Organist,	2

They are under the instruction weekly of Mr. George F. Bishop, and meet every Saturday evening for rehearsal. The average

attendance at the Sunday services is about 25, with faithful attention to the weekly rehearsals. The Music, as rendered, is of a hearty congregational character, and the object is to lead.

"Let the people praise Thee, O God, yea, let all the people praise Thee."

Sixth Committee.—Young Men's Association.

This work has been attended with very encouraging results. The object is to afford instructive amusement and recreation to the young men and older boys of our Church and Sunday School. To this end the lower rooms of the Parish building are open every Tuesday evening, from 7 to 10 o'clock, tickets being distributed to those of a certain age. The number in attendance is very gratifying, the average having been more than 40. A portion of the Committee are present each evening, and the time is employed in reading and games, with occasional reading of selected and humorous pieces by some one designated. The meetings were continued till the last of May, and resumed the first of November.

Seventh Committee.—Young Ladies' Sewing Circle.

This work is one of the most interesting in our Parish history. Twenty-three sessions were held, with an average present of 11 teachers and 31 scholars.

The object of this effort may be briefly stated: To interest the older girls of our school in making garments which may be distributed to needy children in the Sunday School, and to teach writing to those who may desire to improve themselves in this way, and to promote a kindly social feeling. The Lecture Room is used for this purpose, and the doors between it and the Bible Class Room are kept open, so that the Young Men's Reading Room and Young Ladies' Sewing Circle are virtually thrown together. Through the kindness of some friends, a piano has been furnished, and, as many of our scholars are learning to play upon that instrument, there is music furnished every evening. Your Committee would gladly welcome any from the congregation who feel an interest in looking at this work. They will be well repaid for stopping in some Tuesday evening and looking at the cheerful rooms and bright, happy faces of the scholars.

The Committee gratefully acknowledges the following donations:

One piece gingham.
Two pieces unbleached muslin.
Sundry pieces of calico and muslin.
Buttons, &c.
Copy books, writing materials, &c.

During the present winter there is some special entertainment provided every month for those who are present at these social meetings; and, in addition to the writing-class, it is now contemplated

to form a class in elocution, with a view to improve our young people in reading and speaking. An association has also been formed for the purpose of mental improvement, and one to furnish entertainments.

Eighth Committee.—Missionary Work.

This comprises a large number of the ladies who meet during Lent, in connection with the Women's Auxiliary of the Board of Missions. Last season their work was for a clergyman of the Church in Arkansas, and a large box of useful articles for himself and family, with books for a Mission Church and a Communion Service was forwarded before Easter. It is impossible here to enumerate the articles sent; the money value of the box, as reported and credited in the "Spirit of Missions," was \$212.63.

The same Committee is organizing for work during the approaching Lenten season, and will probably aid a clergyman in Colorado.

Probably very few persons have any idea of the amount of real good that is done in the sending of such boxes as these. On the frontier the salary of a clergyman often amounts to a few hundred dollars, and he is obliged to support a family. The letters received by the Committee from this recipient were full of gratitude and thankfulness.

Several Special Committees have performed duties, as determined upon by the Association.

These were:

Excursion to Atlantic City.

Illustrated Rambles of Judge Bick: a series of Euroscopic Exhibitions given in the Church.

Dressing the Church at Christmas.

These have faithfully attended to the work assigned them.

In addition, committees of male members of the congregation have assisted in preserving order, and seating those in attendance at the Christmas and Easter celebrations.

The Treasurer of the Association reports:

Balance on hand from 1880,	\$ 36.47
Cash received,	318.75
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	\$355.22
Payments:	
*Improvement in Lecture Room and Infant School,	\$250.00
Printing Annual Report,	26.00
Young Ladies' Sewing Circle,	10.00
Incidentals,	19.81
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	\$305.81
Balance,	<hr/>
	\$49.41

* The improvements in Lecture Room, as already stated, were done through the liberality of a member of the Vestry. The amount of this appears here on both sides of the Treasurer's accounts.

Grouping together, then, the various Treasurer's reports, and we find the total amount received from all sources, including

Pew Rents, Subscriptions, Donations, Entertainments,
Offeritory, &c., was \$5,376.40
and the expenses were :

Support of the Church, including Interest on	
Ground Rent, Insurance, &c.,	\$3,865.56
Alterations, Improvements and Repairs,	411.83
Support of Sunday Schools,	421.13
Anniversary and Christmas Expenses,	70.50
Missionary Purposes,	741.33
	<hr/> \$5,510.35
Deficit,	<hr/> \$133.95

Accounted for :

Warden, deficit,	\$299.71
S. S. Treasurer balance,	\$116.35
Parish Association,	49.41
	<hr/> 165.76
	<hr/> \$133.95

We have thus, in as brief a space as possible, presented the statistics of the work of the past year. As to results, we can say but little; it is ours to work and pray; it is God that giveth the increase. One of the secrets of the success of this Parish in the past has been the unity and harmony with which all have ever labored; and so may it be in the future. The Sunday School Scriptural Motto Text for 1882 is,

"Ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves and to all men."

Such an injunction, coming from that inspired Apostle and Christian worker, Saint Paul, should ever be the aim of every member of our Association; that thus it may be, and that the "Lord may make us to increase and abound in love one toward another and toward all men," "to the end that He may stablish our hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His Saints," is the sincere desire of

Your friends and fellow-workers,

CHARLES D. COOPER, RECTOR.
GEO. C. THOMAS,
R. A. KYLE,
WM. D. THOMAS,
Committee.